

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Colerne Church of England Primary School	
Address	Quarry Lane, Colerne, SN14 8DU
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Excellent
The impact of collective worship	Excellent

School's vision
<p>'Be a light for all to see.' Matthew 5:16</p> <p>A welcoming light that embraces new faces and change as a positive. A guiding light that offers support and help to those who might be finding life difficult. A leading light that allows children to give their own voice to issues and take ownership of their own pathways. A shining light where all children have a chance to flourish and be recognised for the talents they bring to our community.</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Christian vision powerfully expresses the school's strong sense of service to this frequently changing community. This is successfully embedded by leaders and staff whose bold decisions profoundly influence many lives within the school and beyond. • Driven by the vision, Collective worship is deeply embedded and valued by all. Highly inclusive and inspirational, it encourages and challenges pupils and staff to shine their light within school and the wider world. • Spiritual development opportunities, although not formally planned, are embedded within all areas of school life. Staff and pupils are enriched by these experiences leading to a deeply reflective approach to life. • As welcoming and guiding lights, pupils show extreme care, acceptance, and compassion for others. They have a determined and unerring sense of injustice which drives them to be agents for change. • Exemplary leadership in religious education (RE) gives pupils the opportunities to ask big questions. They discuss philosophically and reflect on their own views and those of others in a deeply supportive environment.
Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the Christian vision with new governors and clergy. This will enable leaders to continue this Church school's journey to effectively serve the local community. • Map opportunities for spiritual growth and progression across all areas of the curriculum. As a result, this will further develop the flourishing of pupils.



Inspection findings

Colerne is a school defined and driven by its deeply motivating Christian vision. This is to shine light on the lives of members of the school and local community. An inspirational and unswerving leadership team has created a culture of welcome, guidance and support in which pupils flourish. Passionate staff at all levels, inspire pupils to think beyond themselves and treat all with dignity and respect. Colerne appreciates its close links with the army base and celebrates its culture of high mobility. Governors readily explain how the school's distinctive Christian vision, formed by the whole community, is interwoven and infused into school and church life. Very strong personal relationships between staff and pupils from varying backgrounds enhance work and play in school. This leads to exemplary behaviour.

The school's unique vision has been life changing for many employees who see the school as 'an extra family'. Support staff say that the unique ethos of the school is powerful. 'The school has been my healing,' said one team member. The vision has created a climate of cohesion that enables staff to work tirelessly for families. Parents say that no problem is too small for teachers to address. During the pandemic lockdown parents felt fully supported, both educationally and keeping morale high. 'Google meets' were arranged so pupils and parents could keep in touch, strengthening relationships.

Inspirational and inclusive collective worship is at the heart of the school. Pupils and staff are excited by memorable and often interactive themes, securing a deep understanding of Bible stories. Pupils leave worship thinking about the key messages and how they can help others. Imaginative drama is readily used to involve pupils and brings happiness to the gathering. Innovative use of big questions helps listeners to think beyond themselves. Examples of how worship has transformed lives are powerful. One parent explained how worship gave her hope during the pandemic. Pupils explained how the Bible teaches them to respect everyone. Consequently, they all get along and bullying is rare. Joyous singing, often using harmony, brings a deep feeling of cohesion.

Worship is enhanced by robust partnerships with St John the Baptist Church. Pupils relish the many opportunities to be leading lights when guiding or supporting worship. The active Celebration Council works closely with church and school leaders. They review and plan worship and prayer so experiences for all are deeply meaningful. Pupils highly value their roles leading regular family services including a monthly Eucharist celebration. Worship is inclusive of all, leading to a strong sense of love and care inspired by the 'essence of the vision'.

The holistic curriculum at Colerne is an expression of its Christian vision. 'Be a light for all to see' ensures pupils' talents are encouraged and nurtured so they shine and are well prepared for life. Leaders and staff have created a transformational environment that encourages big questions and self-reflection. Awe and wonder opportunities are frequently taken in many lessons, in and outside the classroom. However, these are not formally planned.

Relentless in its pursuit to meet the needs of all pupils, a 'Thrive' approach is used to develop emotional resilience. All pupils are therefore well prepared for learning and empowered to be aspirational. Unswerving focus on the vision secures valued local partnerships. Frequent visitors are integral to the learning and enhancement of pupils' growth. The vision weaves beyond the welcoming gates, creating a cohesive community valued by all. Parents say the school is exceptional at creating a community of mutual respect through their vision. They explained the profound impact it had on family life. Parents also highlighted the dedication of early intervention and unstinting support enabling everyone to shine.

Character development at Colerne is exemplary. There is a rich culture of serving others

through the many opportunities to develop leadership skills. Active school and sports councils plan whole school and inter-school activities and fundraising. This frequently involves supporting others locally and nationally. The silver 'Healthy School' award is proudly displayed. The 'leading light' extension of the school vision inspires pupils to passionately engage in social action where they feel injustice prevails. The eco-council empowers others to make positive changes in the world. They have influenced lives by participating in COP26 and organising smaller events such as litter picks. Pupils reflect and act on the school's termly values linked to their vision. For 'generosity' this term, pupils generated funds for Ukrainian families by selling sunflower seeds. The school is dedicated to and displays compassion for God's world, recently recognised by their 'Green Flag' award.

Exceptional leadership drives an ambitious RE curriculum, which is shaped for Colerne school. It is highly valued by pupils who see it as a chance to learn about the cultures and beliefs of others. A skilful use of high-quality resources and a range of teaching styles motivates and inspires pupils. Work and reflection books are meticulously presented showing the pride and enjoyment pupils have. Deeper philosophical thought is encouraged through careful questioning. Spiritual reflection is embedded in all classes. Even the youngest children could talk readily about how they think about themselves and others. Older pupils say they make connections to their own feelings and experiences. They explained how they are allowed to disagree respectfully, as they learn about the viewpoints of others. As a result, pupils celebrate differences.

Bold decisions have been instrumental in ensuring pupils' understanding of Christianity and a range of world faiths. Pupils articulate confidently how stories from the Old and New Testament, parables, and books within the Bible have shaped their lives. The youngest children could confidently explain the meaning behind Bible stories, such as The Widow's Mite. They also understood the meaning behind the Jewish faith of hanging a mezuzah on their door frame. A rich programme of visits to places of worship leads to pupils having a firm grasp on the tenets of various faiths and worldviews. The school's inclusive vision, which drives all developments, was recently recognised in the receiving of the 'Widening Inclusion in Religious Education' award.

The Christian vision being 'a light for all to see', is driven relentlessly by the leadership team. This enables and nurtures pupils to be the best they can be. In a turbulent landscape, the Colerne family has created a welcoming school. They cherish each child and provide a stable environment for them to thrive.

Information			
School	Colerne Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	12 October 2022
URN	126316	VC/VA/Academy	Voluntary controlled
Diocese/District	Bristol	Pupils on roll	243
Headteacher	Mark Solomon		
Chair of Governors	Charlotte Wain		
Inspector	Carol Dougill	No.	2116